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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 377 DESP. NO.

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — November 2, 1953 DATE

REF:

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SUBJECT: Guatemalan Leftists and Opposition Join in Observing United Nations Day.

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The Arbenz Administration, the Guatemalan Congress, and the local press joined in pledging Guatemala's support to the United Nations on the occasion of "United Nations Day" on October 24, but the Communist newspaper Tribuna Popular introduced a discordant note by vitriolic attack on the United States' alleged desire to abolish the veto in the Security Council.

The Administration's acknowledgement of "United Nations Day" took the form of a communication from Dr. Raúl OSEGUEDA, Guatemalan Foreign Minister, to the Secretary General of the United Nations. It offered Guatemala's cooperation with the United Nations and transmitted the Guatemalan People's and Guatemalan Government's "sincere wishes for the Organization's success in achieving complete universality in order to guarantee international peace and security." A translation is enclosed.

The Congress, in one of its rare unanimous actions, resolved to "express to the United Nations, on the occasion of the celebration of its eighth anniversary, the support of the Guatemalan people and their hope that it will continue carrying forward and developing its activities in conformity with the provisions of the San Francisco Charter and in a manner to achieve its transcendental role of guardian of the peace and protector of human rights." This resolution was introduced by Carlos GARCIA Bauer, formerly Guatemalan permanent delegate to the United Nations and currently chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Guatemalan Congress.

Despite the unanimous vote for the resolution, it was adopted only after an acrimonious clash between Carlos Manuel PELLECER, Deputy of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), and Humberto VIELMAN Leal, the leading Opposition Deputy. During the debate Pellecer explained that his party would vote for the motion because "this resolution responds to the Guatemalan's desire for peace, especially when our country is the object of

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of an aggression by the Yankee imperialists. We must support the UN so that later we can request its support against the aggression of which Guatemala is the victim." Vizcaino Leal countered by pointing to the Soviet Union as the aggressor, adding that "the aggression in Korea is a typical case of this aggression, as are also the cases of British Guiana and Guatemala." This was too much for Pellecer who in an answering diatribe called Vizcaino Leal an "imperialist lawyer," an "idiot," a "liar," and a "fool."

In commenting on "United Nations Day," the government's Diario de Centro America took the line that the UN had achieved considerable success if its accomplishment were realistically measured against the fact that the world was divided between "the capitalist area and the socialist area" and that the Guatemalan people supported it "in this hour when powerful interests abroad are working against the development of our country." The independent El Imparcial reviewed the United Nations activity with special praise for its specialized agencies and expressed the hope that despite the present difficulties it would continue to work to remove "the obstacles which impede mankind's march to a better world on the road of peace, work, and justice."

The Communist Tribuna Popular, on the other hand, devoted its main editorial to opposing the abolition of the "rule of unanimity," stating that if it were abolished the UN would be at the mercy of the "voting machine controlled by Yankee pressure, but it would not represent the interests of peaceful peoples nor the majority of mankind. In effect, when the United States makes its Latin American and Atlantic Pact lackeys raise their hands, their votes represent scarcely 300-500 million people while the so-called minority represents 1,500 million inhabitants." The editorial was signed by Alfredo GUERRA Borges, the PGT's acting Secretary for Propaganda, and was published under a cartoon showing a winch operated by Secretary of State Dulles labelled "Voting Machine" which was pulling the cornerstone, labelled "Principle of the Unanimity of the Great Powers," out of the foundation of a Greek temple labelled "UN Charter."

William L. Krieg
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

Translation of letter to
UN Secretary General.

(Guatemalan Government Congratulates UN on Anniversary)
(Nuestro Diario, October 24, 1953)

Guatemala, October 24, 1953

His Excellency
Mr. Dag Hammarsköld,
Secretary General of the
United Nations,
New York.

I have the honor to present to the United Nations, on the occasion of its eighth anniversary, through Your Excellency, the cordial greetings of the People and Government of Guatemala, and to transmit their sincere wishes for the Organization's success in achieving full universality in order better to guarantee international peace and security. I am pleased to offer to Your Excellency Guatemala's cooperation with the United Nations, and to express the confidence that the high purposes and principles of the San Francisco Charter will be absolutely and indiscriminately enforced, ensuring in this way respect for the equal sovereignty of all its Members, the independence of the peoples who aspire to the right of free determination and the cooperation of nations working for the achievement of economic development which would permit their inhabitants to enjoy a humane standard of living. Guatemala is confident that the United Nations will uphold the observance of the principles of justice and law in the settlement of international controversies as well as respect for human rights and fundamental liberties.

I reaffirm, Excellency, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

(s) Raúl Osegueda
Minister of Foreign Relations